

APPENDIX D

SCOPING



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
9922 Front St. (Hwy M-72)
Empire, Michigan 49630-9797

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Y14(SLBE)

March 21, 2002

Dear Friends:

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore has begun the process of writing the park's Wildland Fire Management Plan. This plan and associated Environmental Assessment (EA) will explore the various ways in which National Park Service (NPS) fire management policy can be carried out and also analyze the impacts associated with a variety of wildland fire management programs. There will be an open house at the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Center in Empire, Michigan, on April 10, 2002, at 7:30 p.m., to explain the plan and process, and solicit comments and suggestions on issues that should be addressed in the Environmental Assessment.

We are requesting comments on various ways to manage the fire program. Since we are in the scoping stage of the project, our staff is trying to identify issues that need to be addressed. Issues include concerns regarding natural and cultural resources as well as socio-economic impacts. Once all the issues are identified, the appropriate level of compliance required under the National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act will be completed.

Fire used to play a natural role in shaping the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore landscape and its plant communities. Currently there is an aggressive policy of full suppression due to the lack of a Wildland Fire Management plan. A policy of total, aggressive, strict fire control in all areas of the Lakeshore is not cost-effective, responsive to land management objectives, and most importantly, runs counter to the natural role of fire in biotic and abiotic systems. Knowledge of the natural role of fire in plant community dynamics and fire effects on individual species is continually expanding. It is now known that fire is an important natural process. In fact, many plant communities are dependent upon fire for their continued existence.

The Lakeshore's proposed Wildland Fire Management Plan will provide specific guidance and procedures for accomplishing park fire management objectives. The National Park Service mission is to protect and preserve the lands it manages for the enjoyment of future generations. Guided by this mandate, the Service's fire management program focuses on restoring and maintaining natural processes associated with fire, while protecting human life and property. The plan will be the primary guide for all wildland fire management actions at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, including response to wildland fire (lightning and human caused fires) and the possible use of prescribed fires. The need to protect human life and property in the wildland/urban interface that exists in this park will significantly affect the plan.

The Wildland Fire Management Plan is in the initial scoping stage. Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is requesting comments on issues that need to be addressed and various ways to manage the park's fire program. Written comments should be postmarked no later than April 22, 2002, and can be submitted via the Internet to:
SLBE_Resource_Management@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

Dusty Shultz
Superintendent

NEWS RELEASE

u.s. department of the interior

national park service

For Immediate Release
March 19, 2002

For more information
Contact Steve Yancho at 231-326-5134

SLEEPING BEAR DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore has begun the process of writing the park's Wildland Fire Management Plan. This plan and associated Environmental Assessment (EA) will explore the various ways in which National Park Service (NPS) fire management policy can be carried out and also analyze the impacts associated with a variety of wildland fire management programs. There will be an open house at the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Center in Empire, Michigan, on April 10, 2002, at 7:30 p.m., to explain the plan and process, and to solicit comments and suggestions on issues that should be addressed in the Environmental Assessment.

"We are requesting comments on various ways to manage the fire program. Since we are in the scoping stage of the project, our staff is trying to identify issues that need to be addressed," said park Superintendent Dusty Shultz. Issues include concerns regarding natural and cultural resources as well as socio-economic impacts. Once all the issues are identified, the appropriate level of compliance required under the National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act will be completed.

Fire used to play a natural role in shaping the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore landscape and its plant communities. Currently there is an aggressive policy of full suppression due to the lack of a Wildland Fire Management Plan. According to Shultz, "A policy of total, aggressive, strict fire control in all areas of the Lakeshore is not cost-effective, responsive to land management objectives, and most importantly, runs counter to the natural role of fire in biotic and abiotic systems. Knowledge of the natural role of fire in plant community dynamics and fire effects on individual species is continually expanding. It is now known that fire is an important natural process. In fact, many plant communities are dependent upon fire for their continued existence."

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore • Empire, Michigan 49630-9797
The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.
EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The Lakeshore's proposed Wildland Fire Management Plan will provide specific guidance and procedures for accomplishing park fire management objectives. Shultz said, "The National Park Service mission is to protect and preserve the land it manages for the enjoyment of future generations. Guided by this mandate, the Service's fire management program focuses on restoring and maintaining natural processes associated with fire, while protecting human life and property." The plan will be the primary guide for all wildland fire management actions at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, including response to wildland fire (lightning and human caused fires) and the possible use of prescribed fires. The need to protect human life and property in the wildland/urban interface that exists in this park will be a significant component of the plan.

The Wildland Fire Management Plan is in the initial scoping stage. Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is requesting comments on issues that need to be addressed and various ways to manage the park's fire program. Interested parties can also request to be placed on a mailing list to receive notice of further actions in the planning process, including reviewing the Draft Wildland Fire Management Plan and Environmental Assessment. Written comments should be postmarked no later than April 22, 2002, and be addressed to Superintendent, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, 9922 Front Street, Empire, MI 49630. Written comments may also be submitted via the Internet to: SLBE_Resource_Management@nps.gov.

March 20, 2002

SEND LETTER TO:

KEN KOLANKEWICK, MANGI ENVIRO
CAL GALE
HOMESTEAD FIRE DEPT, FRANK WALTERHOUSE CHIEF
FRANKFORT FIRE DEPT, ROBERT HOLLENBECK, CHIEF
SOLON/CENTERVILLE FIRE DEPT, AL ROSZINSKI, CHIEF
EMPIRE FIRE DEPT, RYAN DEERING, CHIEF
GLEN ARBOR FIRE DEPT, JOHN DEPUY, CHIEF
LELAND FIRE DEPT
BENZONIA TWP FIRE DEPT.
BENZIE COUNTY PLANNING DEPT.
HOMESTEAD RESORT, NICK NERBONNE
LEELANAU CONSERVANCY
MI LAND INSTITUTE, KEITH SCHNEIDER
GEORGE WEEKS
RIVERSIDE CANOE LIVERY
FRIENDS OF SLEEPING BEAR DUNES
LEELANAU COUNTY PLANNING DEPT
SENATOR CARL LEVIN
SENATOR DEBBIE STABENOW
CONGRESSMAN BART STUPAK
MICHIGAN DNR, (TC)
HURON/MANISTEE USFS
MI UNITED CONS CLUBS
MICHIGAN DNR
 FOREST MGMT DIV
 NON GAME DIV AND WILDLIFE
 MICHIGAN NATURAL FEATURES
 PARKS DIVISION
 HONOR STATION
MICHIGAN DEQ
 AIR QUALITY
 GROUND WATER
 SURFACE WATER
BENZIE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
LEELANAU CONSERVATION DISTRICT
LEELANAU CONSERVATION DISTRICT
GRAND TRAVERSE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SHIELDING TREE NATURE CENTER
THE OLSON FOUNDATION
NATURE CONSERVANCY (CHK)
USGS BIO RESOURCE DIV, WALT LOOPE/NOEL PAVOLIC
STATE FIRE MARSHALL
NORTHWEST MI COUNCIL OF GOVTS.
BIA MNPLS, MN
INDU
USF&WS,
 SENEY MI
 LANSING MI

NORTHWEST MI ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMITTEE
NATIONAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE
CO-OP EXTENSION OFFICES

STATE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION OFFICE
AUDUBON SOCIETY
LITTLE RIVER BAND-OTTAWA AND CHIPPEWA
LITTLE TRAVERSE BAND-OTTAWA AND CHIPPEWA
DAVE TAGHON
DR JACK WOOD
JOHN DAUGHERTY
HAROLD O'BRIEN
GEORGE WEEKS
MANITOU ISLAND TRANSIT
DOROTHY WUNDERLICH, LEE. COUNTY CLERK
SUTTONS BAY AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

PRESS RELEASE ONLY

WIAA – INTERLOCHEN
LEELANAU ENTERPRISE
RECORD PATRIOT
COMMUNITY CALENDAR – 9&10
PREVIEW COMMUNITY WEEKLY
RECORD EAGLE
DON INGLE ED TRAVEL AND OUTDOOR
BENZIE C OF C
FRANKFORT C OF C
LEELANAU C OF C
GLEN LAKE C OF C
TRAVERSE CITY C OF C
TRAVERSE THE MAGAZINE
ASSOCIATED PRESS
BOOTH NEWSPAPER
DETROIT FREE PRESS
WBNZ RADIO
BOB FINK, CITIZEN'S COUNCIL OF SLEEPING BEAR DUNES
ADVISOR
GAZETTE
WGTU-WGTQ
WTCM NEWS
WPBM-WTOM
PICTURED ROCKS
KEEWEENAW NAT HP
ISLE ROYALE NP
WATERSHED CENTER OF GT BAY
WWTV-WWUP
THE OUTDOOR NETWORK

	ASSOCIATED PRESS 300 RIVER PLACE SUITE 2400 DETROIT MI 48207-4225	DETROIT FREE PRESS 615 W LAFAYETTE BLVD DETROIT MI 48226-
MACKINAC CHAP - SIERRA CLUB 109 EAST GRAND RIVER AVE LANSING MI 48906-4348	BOOTH NEWSPAPERS 217 N SYCAMORE LANSING MI 48933-	DR JACK S WOOD 7635 W HICKORY RD HICKORY CORNERS MI 49060-
DON J INGLE ED TRAVEL & OUTDOOR P O BOX 78 BALDWIN MI 49304-	COMMUNITY CALENDAR, TV 9/10 P O BOX 627 CADILLAC MI 49601-	KEITH SCHNEIDER, MI LAND USE INST P O BOX 228 BENZONIA MI 49616-
BENZIE COUNTY C OF C P O BOX 505 BEULAH MI 49617-	BENZIE COUNTY PLANNING 448 COURT PLACE BEULAH MI 49617-	JOHN B DAUGHERTY 249 S BENZIE BLVD BEULAH MI 49617-
DNR-PR FISH HATCHERY 15200 HONOR HWY BEULAH MI 49617-	DAVE TAGHON TAGHON'S CORNER EMPIRE MI 49630-	HAROLD O'BRIEN 7266 M-109 EMPIRE MI 49630-
FRANKFORT C OF C P O BOX 566 FRANKFORT MI 49635-	WBNZ NEWS SPORTS DIRECTOR 1532 FORRESTER RD FRANKFORT MI 49635-	RECORD PATRIOT BOX 673 FRANKFORT MI 49635-
MR BOB FINK CITIZEN'S COUNCIL OF SLEEPING BEAR DUNES GLEN ARBOR MI 49636-	HOMESTEAD RESORT, MKT MGR WOOD RIDGE RD GLEN ARBOR MI 49636-	GEORGE WEEKS 8804 SLEEPING BEAR RD GLEN ARBOR MI 49636-
MR AND MRS SUTHERLAND P O BOX 677 GLEN ARBOR MI 49636-	GLEN LAKE C OF C BOX 217 GLEN ARBOR MI 49636-	RIVERSIDE CANOE LIVERY M-22 AT PLATTE RIVER HONOR MI 49640-
ADVISOR P.O. BOX 237 HONOR MI 49640-0237	WIAA-FM INTERLOCHEN MI 49643-	LEELANAU ENTERPRISE 7200 EAST DUCK LAKE RD LAKE LEELANAU MI 49653-
LEELANAU C OF C P O BOX 336 LAKE LEELANAU MI 49653-	LEELANAU CONSERVANCY 105 N FIRST BOX 1007 LELAND MI 49654-	MANITOU ISLAND TRANSIT LELAND MI 49654-

(929-103)

GAZETTE-ANDREW MCFARLAND
P O BOX 134
LELAND MI 49654-

✓LEELANAU COUNTY PLANNING
COURTHOUSE ANNEX
LELAND MI 49654- **RECEIVED**
DATE 3/13

DOROTHY WUNDERLICH, LEE CTY
CLERK
P O BOX 467
LELAND MI 49654- 3/13

MS LOU SCOTT
GTB-2605 N WEST BAYSHORE
SUTTONS BAY MI 49682-

MR JOHN D. CONCANNON
GTB 2605 NW BAYSHORE DR
SUTTONS BAY MI 49682-

SUTTONS BAY AREA PUBLIC
LIBRARY
P O BOX 340
SUTTONS BAY MI 49682-

THE WATERSHED CENTER GT BAY
232 EAST FRONT ST
TRAVERSE CITY MI 49684-

STACY L. SMITH, T.C. RECORD EAGLE
120 WEST FRONT STREET
TRAVERSE CITY MI 49684-

WTCM NEWS
314 E FRONT ST
TRAVERSE CITY MI 49684-

MR AND MRS MARTIN MELKILD
223 W 11TH ST
TRAVERSE CITY MI 49684-

TRAVERSE CITY C OF C
P O BOX 387
TRAVERSE CITY MI 49684- PR

RECORD EAGLE
120 W FRONT ST
TRAVERSE CITY MI 49684-

WGTU/WGTQ 29/8
201 E FRONT ST
TRAVERSE CITY MI 49684-

TRAVERSE THE MAGAZINE
148 EAST FRONT ST # 201
TRAVERSE CITY MI 49684-2509

MR AND MRS GEORGE MCKAY
10030 MARSHALL LANE
TRAVERSE CITY MI 49684-8005

WWTV-WWUP 9 & 10
P O BOX 627
TRAVERSE CITY MI 49685-

✓SENATOR CARL LEVIN'S OFFICE
207 GRANDVIEW PKWY, SUITE 104
TRAVERSE CITY MI 49685-

WPBM-WTOM TV 7 & 4
P O BOX 546
TRAVERSE CITY MI 49685-0546

✓FRIENDS OF SLEEPING BEAR DUNES
P O BOX 6344
TRAVERSE CITY MI 49685-6344

✓CONGRESSMAN BART STUPAK'S
OFFICE
1120 E FRONT SUITE D
TRAVERSE CITY MI 49685-

MR AND MRS KEN BEERTHUIS
1918 ARROWHEAD DRIVE
TRAVERSE CITY MI 49685-

MOLLY HARRIGAN MCCOMBS
328 HIGHVIEW ROAD
TRAVERSE CITY MI 49686-

PR ✓PREVIEW COMMUNITY WEEKLY
P.O. BOX 5847
TRAVERSE CITY MI 49686-

✓MICHIGAN DNR
970 EMERSON ROAD
TRAVERSE CITY MI 49686-8815

PICTURED ROCKS NL
P O BOX 40
MUNISING MI 49862-

KEEWEENAW NAT HIST PARK
P O BOX 471
CALUMET MI 49913-

ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK
800 E LAKESHORE DR
HOUGHTON MI 49931-1895

THE OUTDOOR NETWORK
ATTN: MIKAL Belicove
P.O. Box 1928, BOULDER CO 80306-

Senator Stabenow
Leelanau Conservancy
Local Fire Chiefs ok
Please return
at Complete package.
Dishes & k

These are
on the top of
my head -
these may be
altered

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Press Clipping

The Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653, Thursday, March 28, 2002

NPS reviews fire policy

Some fires may be allowed to burn

Fire may soon play a more prevalent role in shaping the landscape within Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

A policy addressing when—and if—naturally occurring wildfires should be extinguished is being written by Lakeshore officials. The current policy is to put out fires as soon as they are

discovered.

Local fire chiefs are waiting to hear what National Park Service officials have in mind before weighing in, but warn that Leelanau County has few uninhabited areas large enough to allow a fire to take its course without endangering people or property.

"I have some reservations about it,"

said Glen Arbor fire chief John DePuy.

While he understands the concept of allowing wildfires to burn dead and rotting fuel on the forest's floor, he questions whether the Park Service or local firefighters can manage fires.

"That's fine if you have enough people to control it, but when the winds come in off the lake that's another matter," said DePuy. "I'd just hate to see something happen here as it happened out west."

Empire Township fire chief Ryan Deering agreed. "The concept doesn't bother me as long as they can keep things under control."

Sleeping Bear Dunes superintendent Dusty Shultz said that a policy allowing fires to burn would include parameters to safeguard private property and residents.

"It would depend on the nature of the fire. It can be a very beneficial thing to have fire, which helps regenerate native plants," she said.

Shultz said that the policy may go beyond mandating that naturally occurring fires such as those caused by lightning be allowed to burn. "Prescribed" fires started by the Park Service may be called for in the policy to encourage Mother Nature's processes.

Shultz leaves little doubt how she stands on the issue.

"A policy of total, aggressive, strict fire control in all areas of the Lakeshore is not cost-effective, responsive to land management objectives, and most importantly, runs counter to the natural role of fire in biotic and abiotic systems. Knowledge of the natural role of fire in plant community dynamics and fire effects on individual species is continually expanding," she said.

However, Max Holden, the Lakeshore's wildlife biologist, said that little groundwork has been done to prove the role of wildfire in the ecology or history of the Lakeshore.

That's not the case in all parks. At Isle Royale, biologists have dug deep into bogs to determine that fires have continually swept across the island, helping to evolve vegetation. "It looks like it happened about every 100 years," said Holden.

The role of fires have also been documented in western states, with some

(Concluded on Page 14)

The Leelanau Enterprise, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653, Thursday, March 28, 2002

Park Service reviews fire policy



A POLICY DEFINING how the National Park Service will handle wildfires within its jurisdiction will soon be written for Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

Continued from Page 1

begun intentionally by Native Americans to drive game as a hunting practice.

None of that evidence has so far been documented by the Park Service in the Lakeshore, Holden said. He's also heard about a great fire that swept through the woods around Glen Arbor 100 or more years ago—but again, it is undocumented.

"I suppose that this is one of the first things we would do in a fire management plan is get the research to prove it."

If Holden sounds like a skeptic, that's because he questions how large a role wildfire has played locally. The maple/beech forests that predominate here are not as prone to devastating fires as jack pines found elsewhere in northern Michigan.

"We have a maritime climate, we are different than Kalkaska and Roscommon counties. It all leads to this part of the state being fairly fire resistant," he said.

Locally, most pines that were not planted by man in plantations occur as a succession of vegetation leading quickly from the Lake Michigan shoreline to maple- and beech-lined hills.

Should a policy allowing some fires to run their course or prescribed fires be approved, Holden said that the Park Service has 12 to 20 staff members

trained in fire suppression.

He also expects the policy to outline protections for communities which may involve identifying and perhaps creating "fire breaks" to prevent fires that start in forests from entering urban areas.

An open house has been set for 7:30 p.m. April 10 at the Dunes' park visitor center in Empire to explain the process of establishing a plan, and to take input. Schultz said the process is just beginning.

"We are requesting comments on various ways to manage the fire program. Since we are in the scoping stage of the project, our staff is trying to identify issues that need to be addressed," she said.

Written comments should be postmarked no later than April 22, and sent to the superintendent, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, 9922 Front St., Empire 49630. Comments on the Internet can be sent to SLBE_Resource_Management@nps.gov.

Interested parties can request to be placed on a mailing list to receive notices of further actions.